



ASHINGTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
(COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND).

REPORT

For the Year 1938.

OF

JAMES ANGUS,  
M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

GEO. W. TATE, F.S.I.A., M.R. San. I.  
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

ASHINGTON  
PORTLAND PRINTING COMPANY,  
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# REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1938.

## STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Office.	Name.	Qualifications	Whole or Part Time	Salary P.H. Acts or Ex-chequer Grants
Medical Officer of Health ... Medical Superintendent (Isolation Hospital) Medical Officer (Maternity & Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic)	James Angus ...	M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.	Part Time	P.H.A's.
Dental Officer ...	G. E. Hutchinson	L.D.S.	Part Time	P.H.A's.
Sanitary Housing } Meat } Inspectors	Geo. W. Tate ...	F.S.I.A. ... M.R. San. I.	Whole Time	Commenced 1/6/38
	Thomas Cook ...	C.R.S.I. ... M.S.I.A. ...	do.	P.H.A's. Resigned 31/5/38
Sanitary } Inspector ... Meat } (additional) Clerk Typist ...	E. W. Strachan ...	M.S.I.A. ... A.R. San. I. ...	do.	P.H.A's.
Health Visitors ...	I. Taylor ...	H.V. Crt. R.S.I. S.C.M.	do.	P.H.A's.
	N. P. McKenna	S.R.N., S.C.M. H.V. Crt. R.S.I.	do.	Commenced 7/10/38
	B. Hownam ...	S.R.N., S.C.M. H.V. Crt.	do.	Resigned 24/9/38
Matron Isolation Hospital ...	E. A. Chisholm	S.R.N. R.S.I.	do.	
Staff Nurse ...	M. Thompson ...	Fever Trained	do.	
Nurse ...	M. Kirkup ...	Probationer ...	do.	

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Ashington.

Gentlemen,

I have once again the privilege of presenting to you my Ninth Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the Urban District, and on the work of the Health Services for the year 1938.

A matter of very great satisfaction, is the continued downward trend of Infantile Mortality, which this year amounts to the very low number of thirty three.

One very serious and disturbing factor, however, to this Department, was the resurgence of Diphtheria in the groups of children of 1—10 years of age—actually the age groups able to offer least resistance to the onset and complications of this preventable disease.

This prevalence commenced towards the end of May, 1938 and persisted throughout the remainder of the year, attaining its peak in the months of September and October.

Five deaths occurred therefrom, and when it is borne in mind that for several years now, immunisation has been offered, free of charge, at the Council's Welfare Centre, the occurrence of Diphtheria might be construed as a grave reflection upon those charged with the guardianship of children in all likelihood susceptible, to permit to exist amongst them a malady which need not be present at all. None of the fatal cases had been immunised, and in point of fact so far, no case of true Diphtheria has occurred in any of the children subjected to preventive inoculation at the Clinics.

I should like to point out most emphatically, that should a National Emergency ever occur, the very efficient assistance that at present exists here, might not be so easily come by and might just as easily be greatly curtailed during another possible Diphtheria epidemic, and this contingency would react most unfavourably on the unprotected children in the community. I would therefore urge, that advantage of the facilities be taken now, whilst the going is good.

I would once more place on record, how greatly I have valued the assistance and encouragement accorded me by all the Members of the Council, and how much I have appreciated the willing co-operation and sustained interest of the Members of the Staff of all Departments, in the working of the Public Health Department, during the year, 1938.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES ANGUS.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The district is bounded on the north and west by agricultural land in the Morpeth Rural District; on the east by grazing land in the Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Urban District; on the south by the River Wansbeck. The Authority for the present boundaries and date of operation is the M. of H. order 81246—the Northumberland Review order 1935—and its date of operation 1st April, 1935.

The surface soil all over our area is very shallow, resting on a deep bed of clay, a consequence of this being a change of temperature night and morning due to the easy receptivity of heat by the surface soil during the day and the equally facile parting with this absorbed heat at sundown.

There is but one staple industry in the district namely coal mining in which the bulk of the male population find employment. There is also a certain amount of dairy farming and stock rearing carried on in the urban area now twice its size in 1934. In the Hirst wards the majority of the house property belongs to the Ashington Coal Company built in rows of two storey buildings consisting of three, four and five roomed houses.

AREA (in acres) 6057.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S estimate of the population mid 1938 is 29870.

At the Census of 1921 the population of Ashington was 29388.

At the Census of 1931 the population of Ashington was 29418.

At the Census of 1931 the populations of the added portions of Morpeth R.D. (part viz. Bothal Demesne, Sheepwash C.P.S. and part of Woodhorn C.P.) were in the above order 155, 68, and 206. Total 429.

For this year, 1938, the Registrar-General estimates the population in the middle of the year to be 29870 and this figure will be used in all the calculation necessary for birth and death rates, etc.

The comparability factor is 1.23.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1938 according to Rate Books, 7484.

Rateable Value £108306.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £414.

## BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS						Total	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	419	211	208
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	19	13	6

Birth Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident population 14.66.

STILLBIRTHS						Total	M	F
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	27	17	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...		1	0

Rate per 1000 (live and still) births, 17.22.

DEATHS (R.G.)	...	...	...	...	...	276	156	120
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Death Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident population, 9.24.

Death Rate multiplied by area comparability factor,  $9.24 \times 1.23 = 11.36$ .

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	Deaths			Rate per 1000 live and still births.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	1	2.15
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	3	6.45
Total	...	...	4	8.60

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	75.34
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	76.37
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	52.63
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	38
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	4

BIRTHS.—During the year the total number of live births registered within the district was 364. The Registrar-General adds 74 to this number for live births belonging to but occurring outside our district, thus giving a total of 438 equivalent to a birth rate of 14.66 per 1000. Comparing the figures of this district with the R-G.'s tables in S.D. 55, we find the following birthrates per 1000 population given as follows:—

For England and Wales	...	...	...	...	15.1 per 1000
For London (A.C.)	...	...	...	...	13.4 per 1000
For 125 C.B.'s and Great Towns (including London)	...	...	...	...	15.0 per 1000
For 148 Smaller Towns (population 25,000—50,000)	...	...	...	...	15.4 per 1000

The illegitimate births registered and allocated to the district are 19. Thirteen males and six females or 4.3% of the total live births legitimate and illegitimate.



The following table gives the monthly births, sex and distribution.

Ashington Urban District. BIRTHS—SEX AND DISTRIBUTION, 1938.

Months	Ashington Ward			Hirst Ward			District			Illegitimate				
	Male	F'm'le	Total	Male	F'm'le	Total	Male	F'm'le	Total	Ash't'n		Hirst		Dist.
										M	F	M	F	
January ...	3	5	8	13	9	22	16	14	30	0	0	0	0	0
February ...	4	2	6	11	9	20	15	11	26	0	0	0	0	0
March ...	6	2	8	11	9	20	17	11	28	0	1	2	0	3
April ...	5	4	9	11	15	26	16	19	35	0	1	1	0	2
May ...	5	10	15	8	6	14	13	16	29	0	0	0	0	0
June ...	5	3	8	9	9	18	14	12	26	0	0	0	0	0
July ...	6	9	15	13	9	22	19	18	37	0	0	0	0	0
August ...	6	4	10	8	11	19	14	15	29	0	1	2	0	3
September ...	5	3	8	12	10	22	17	13	30	0	0	0	0	0
October ...	4	4	8	13	9	22	17	13	30	0	0	0	0	0
November ...	4	4	8	3	10	13	7	14	21	0	0	1	0	1
December ...	12	8	20	8	6	14	20	14	34	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	65	58	123	120	112	232	185	170	355	0	3	6	0	9

DEATHS :—

The total number of deaths from all causes registered in the district for the year is 232, but there were 12 deaths of non-residents registered here (outward transfers) to be deducted and there were 56 deaths of residents in the district registered elsewhere (inward transfers) to be added, giving 276 as the corrected total number of deaths for the year. This is equal to a death rate of 9.24 per 1000 population.

The elements composing the population of the urban district and the country as a whole are differently arranged. In order to allow of a fair comparison with other districts and the country generally and in order to make allowances for variations in sex and age distribution the R.G. has provided the area comparability factor of 1.23 based on the 1931 Census. This factor is then applied to the crude death rate of the town thereby giving the adjusted death rate for the district, i.e.,  $9.24 \times 1.23 = 11.36$  per 1000.

The R.G.'s table in S.D. 55 of the annual death rates per 1000 population sets out.

For England and Wales ...	11.6
For London (A.C.) ...	11.4
For 125 C.B.'s and Great Towns ...	11.7
For 148 Smaller Towns ...	11.0

The comparison with the last mentioned group amongst which Ashington is classified gives a more valid indication of the relative healthiness of the Area.

Ashington Urban District.

CAUSES OF AND AGES OF DEATHS, 1938.  
(M.O.H. Table No. 3).

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the Sub-joined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the district.									Total Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 and und 2	2 and und 5	5 and und 15	15 and und 25	25 and und 45	45 and und 65	65 and upwds	
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Measles ...	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Diphtheria ...	5	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	4
6 Influenza ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	9	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	0	4
10 Other Tuberculosis diseases ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
11 Syphilis ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
12 General Paralysis of the Insane Tabes dorsalis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Cancer, malignant disease ...	38	0	0	0	0	0	3	20	15	6
14 Diabetes ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Etc. ...	32	0	0	0	0	1	1	6	24	6
16 Heart disease ...	43	1	0	0	0	2	1	19	20	4
17 Aneurysm ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Other circulatory diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Bronchitis ...	14	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	8	0
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	24	7	1	1	0	0	3	3	9	4
21 Other respiratory diseases	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
22 Peptic Ulcer ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
24 Appendicitis ...	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Other diseases of Liver	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
27 Other digestive diseases	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	4
28 Acute and Chronic nephritis	14	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	6	5
29 Puerperal sepsis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Other puerperal causes	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
31 Congenital Debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
32 Senility ...	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
33 Suicide ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
34 Other violence ...	20	0	0	0	2	0	10	4	4	10
35 Other defined diseases	15	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	6	9
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total ...	276	33	1	7	8	8	34	78	107	79

### INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1938.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year is 33 this year compared with 37 for 1937. The Infantile Mortality Rate is therefore 75.34 per 1000 children live births. The corresponding rate for 1937 was 73.12 per 1000 children born, the number of deaths under 1 being 37.

NEONATAL DEATHS.—Included in above figures—number 17, and of these 13 died within the first week of life.

Comparing these figures again with the Registrar-General's Table, S.D. 55 the Infantile Mortality Rates are given:—

For England and Wales 53 deaths per 1000 children born.

„ London A.C. 57 „ „

„ 126 Great Towns 57 „ „

„ 148 Smaller Towns 51 „ „

Our Infantile Mortality Rate is therefore 24.34 per 1000 children born in excess of that of the 148 smaller towns among which we are classified.

Comparative mortality table during the past years is as follows:—

Year	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of Infant deaths from										
Diarrhoea										
(a) and Enteritis under 2 years ... ..	6	6	3	6	12	3	5	4	3	4
(b) Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	85	55	52	48	51	43	57	41	37	33

Causes of Death	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Measles ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	4
Meningitis—Tubercular ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth, Atrophy Debility and Marasmus ... ..	12	2	1	1	16	1	1	1	0	19
Congenital Malformation ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atelectasis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury at Birth ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis (non Tubercular)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Convulsions ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	0	7
Other causes ... ..	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Total ... ..	13	2	2	1	18	2	6	7	0	33

Of the 33 Infant Deaths, 13 died within one week of birth from prematurity and congenital defects, these conditions being due probably to other causes operating before birth. Of the remaining 20, fatal affections of the respiratory tract accounted for 7.

In order to avoid this wastage of infant life and by directing attention to the prevention of the two principal causes of deaths, viz., prematurity (lack of vitality) and pneumonia it should be possible to achieve a still further diminution of it through making adequate use of the (1) Ante-Natal, Dental and Child Welfare Services already established (2) through the abatement of overcrowding and (3) through the maintenance of a high level of nutrition in the expectant and nursing mother and thereby her offspring. The exhibition of a high standard of mothercraft also must necessarily cause a lowering of the infant mortality rate.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY:—

		Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births.
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	2.15
Deaths from other puerperal causes ...	3	6.45
...	4	8.60

During the year 1938 four mothers died from pathological states associated with or attributable to pregnancy and parturition.

#### CANCER AND SARCOMA MORTALITY.

CANCER ...	Males							Females						
	70-	30-	40-	45-	55-	65-	Tot	20-	30-	40-	45-	55-	65-	Tot
Ear ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jaw ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tongue ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Larynx ...	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Thyroid ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Branchial ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lungs & Bronchi	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Oesophagus ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stomach ...	0	0	1	2	4	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Liver ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colon ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Rectum ...	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prostate ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bladder ...	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uterus ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Mamma ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total ...	0	0	1	4	8	9	22	0	2	0	2	2	8	14
SARCOMA ...														
Rib ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Parotid ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals ...	0	0	1	4	8	9	22	0	2	0	3	3	8	16

Ashington Urban District.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF VITAL  
STATISTICS FOR PAST SIX YEARS.

Year	Popula- tion esti- mated to middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Net Deaths belonging to the District				
		Uncorrected Number	Net		No.	Rate	Of Non- Resid'ts regis- tered in the District	Of Resi- dents not regis- tered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all ages		Adjus- ted by A.C.F. 1'23
			No.	Rate					No.	Rate	No.	Rate	
1933	29760	527	581	19'52	272	9'14	6	44	51	87'78	310	10'42	
1934	29710	523	585	19'69	336	11'31	11	56	43	73'5	381	12'82	
1935	29903	508	549	18'36	308	13'0	17	54	57	103'8	345	11'53	14'18
1936	30020	487	526	17'52	288	9'59	6	47	41	77'65	329	10'95	13'46
1937	29940	435	506	16'90	305	10'22	18	65	37	73'12	352	11'75	14'45
1938	29370	364	438	14'66	232	7'76	12	56	33	75'54	276	9'24	11'36

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—The term includes deaths from the following 7 diseases only. They are included among others in Table 3:—

Disease.	No. of Deaths.		Rate per 1000 population.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	0	...	0.0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	0	...	0.0
Enteric Fever (Typhoid & Paratyphoid) 0	...	0	...	0.0
Enteritis (Diarrhœa under 2 years) 4	...	4	...	0.1339
Diphtheria ... ..	...	5	...	0.1673
Measles ... ..	...	1	...	0.0334
		10		0.3346

Among the other principal causes of death are the following:—

	Cases.	Death Rate.
Cancer ... ..	39	1.3056
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	20	0.6695
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	10	0.3347
Bronchitis ... ..	9	0.3013
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	1	0.0334



## NETT MONTHLY DEATHS AND BIRTHS.

Months	Ashington Ward		Hirst Ward		Total All Ages	Total Births Registered
	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	All Ages	Under 1 yr.		
January ...	7	1	9	7	24	30
February ...	5	0	10	2	17	26
March ...	9	0	10	3	22	31
April ...	4	1	10	0	15	37
May ...	10	0	17	10	27	29
June ...	4	1	7	0	12	26
July ...	5	0	7	1	13	37
August ...	8	0	8	1	17	32
September ...	6	0	7	0	13	30
October ...	10	1	9	1	21	30
November ...	8	0	13	1	22	22
December ...	13	1	8	3	25	34
Total ...	89	5	115	19	228	364

The Registrar General supplies the following Table :—

## CAUSES OF DEATHS 1938.

Causes of Death.			M	F	Causes of Death.			M	F
All Causes	...	...	156	120	26	Other diseases of Liver, &c.	1	1	
1 Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	0	0	27	Other Digestive diseases	2	6	
2 Measles	...	...	0	1	28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	7	
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	0	0	29	Puerperal Sepsis...	0	0	
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0	30	Other Puerperal causes ...	0	3	
5 Diphtheria	...	...	2	3	31	Congenital Debility, premature birth, malformations, &c.	7	12	
6 Influenza	...	...	0	0	32	Senility	1	2	
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	0	0	33	Suicide	3	1	
8 Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	1	0	34	Other Violence	9	7	
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	7	3	35	Other defined diseases	9	11	
10 Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	1	0	36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	3	
11 Syphilis	...	...	3	0					
12 General Paralysis of the insane	...	...	0	0	Deaths of		Total	19	14
Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	0	0	Infants		Legitimate	18	14
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	23	16	under 1 year		Illegitimate	1	0
14 Diabetes	...	...	1	1					
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	6	8	Live Births		Total	224	214
16 Heart Disease	...	...	35	17			Legitimate	211	208
17 Aneurysm	...	...	0	1			Illegitimate	13	6
18 Other Circulatory diseases	...	...	10	9					
19 Bronchitis	...	...	8	1	Stillbirths		Total	18	9
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	14	6			Legitimate	17	9
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	2	0			Illegitimate	1	0
22 Peptic ulcer	...	...	1	0					
23 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	3	1	Population		...	...	29870
24 Appendicitis	...	...	3	0					
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	0	0					

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates and Case Rates  
for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

(England and Wales, London, Great Towns and Smaller Towns). Provisional Figures based on  
Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales.	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
Rates per 1000 Population.				
Births—				
Live ... ..	15·1	15·0	15·4	13·4
Still ... ..	0·60	0·65	0·60	0·48
Deaths—				
All Causes ... ..	11·6	11·7	11·0	11·4
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Smallpox ... ..	0·00	—	0·00	—
Measles ... ..	0·04	0·05	0·03	0·06
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01
Whooping Cough... ..	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·03
Diphtheria ... ..	0·07	0·07	0·06	0·05
Influenza ... ..	0·11	0·10	0·11	0·06
Notifications—				
Smallpox ... ..	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2·41	2·60	2·58	2·05
Diphtheria ... ..	1·58	1·85	1·53	1·90
Enteric Fever ... ..	0·03	0·03	0·04	0·05
Erysipelas ... ..	0·40	0·46	0·39	0·46
Pneumonia ... ..	1·10	1·28	0·98	0·98
Rates per 1000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age ... ..	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 years of age ... ..	5·5	7·8	3·6	13·1
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0·89	} Not available		
Others... ..	2·19			
Total ... ..	3·08			
Rates per 1000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).				
Maternal Mortality—				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0·86	} Not available		
Others... ..	2·11			
Total ... ..	2·97			
Notifications—				
Puerperal Fever ... ..	} 14·42	18·08	12·51	{ 3·53 15·46
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..				

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

MEDICAL RELIEF.—The Ashington Hospital is situated to the south-east of the railway station, and in close proximity thereto. It has 26 male and 14 female beds, also 3 children's cots. The staff include one Surgeon Superintendent, three Resident Medical Officers, one Matron, five Sisters and 12 probationer nurses.

The minimum annual subscription is 13/- for:—

- (1) In-patient and/or out-patient treatment as necessary.
- (2) The services of the District Nurse.

Three motor ambulances for non-infectious and accident cases are available.

The following is extracted from the Association's report for the year 1938:—

Admissions	...	...	...	1301	Out-patients—Cases	...	2003		
Discharges	...	...	...	1253	„	Treatments	...	9182	
Transfers to other Hospitals				16	Deaths	...	...	...	35

Very up-to-date facilities exist at the Hospital for X-Ray examination, massage, and orthopædic treatment, and a Fracture Clinic has also been set up.

Outside the Ashington urban area, further hospital services can be obtained at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Fleming Memorial Hospital for Sick Children, Babies Hospital, Eye Infirmary, Throat and Ear Hospital and General Hospital—all in Newcastle-upon-Tyne just within twenty miles distant.

The Elizabeth Craigs Memorial Clinic is situated centrally in Lintonville Terrace, and in this building there are conducted:—

- (1) The Tuberculosis Clinic.
- (2) The Orthopædic Clinic.
- (3) The Dental Clinic.

All under auspices of the Northumberland County Council.

The Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly on Thursday. The Orthopædic Surgeon attends weekly on Monday. A full time Dental Surgeon with Nurse in attendance operates the dental clinic for school children all the week since October, 1935,



Cases deemed to be suitable for institutional treatment are sent to the various sanatoria under the control of the Northumberland County Council.

Orthopædic Cases are sent to the W. J. Sanderson Home for Crippled Children, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Institutional provision for care of mental defectives and disease exists at Morpeth Mental Hospital.

Under the Northumberland County Council Public Assistance Committee there are two District Medical Officers and two Vaccination Officers for this district.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During the year under review the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics were held in the M.C.W. building in South View.

Ninety seven sessions from 2—4 p.m. were held on Monday and Thursday afternoons throughout the year.

The following is a record of the attendances during the twelvemonth.

Total attendances during the year:—

Children under 1 year ... ..	4473
Children between 1 and 5 years ... ..	1163

Total number of children who attended at the Centre for the first time during the year and who at the date of their first attendance were:—

(a) Under 1 year of age ... ..	329
(b) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years ... ..	163

Total number of children who attended at the Centre during the year and who at the end of the year were:—

(a) Under 1 year of age ... ..	280
(b) Over 1 year of age ... ..	545

The Medical Officer attends the Afternoon Session on Mondays and is assisted by the two Health Visitors and several lady voluntary workers. No reference, however, to the Maternity and Child Welfare could be regarded as complete without the expression of our appreciation of the very great assistance which is rendered to the centre by the lady voluntary helpers. They have by their assiduity in the matter of their attendance at the Clinic contributed valuable assistance and very material help in maintaining the high level of efficiency of the centre.

73.27% of the children born in Ashington were brought to the centre during the year.

Special attention continues to be directed to observing the dental and oral state of the mothers attending with their babies and those in whom the oro-dental state is found to be unsatisfactory are referred to the Dental Officer for treatment.

MILK FOODS, ETC.—During the year milk foods and other specialities were supplied in accordance with the undermentioned data.

	Food Sold at Cost Price.	Food Sold at Half Price.	Food Supplied Free to Necessitous Cases
Ostermilk, No. 1 ...	802 lbs.	22 lbs.	106 lbs.
Ostermilk, No. 2 ...	2344 „	70 „	633 „
Cow and Gate ...	3190 „	112 „	597 „
Nutrix ... ..	2261 „	14 „	198 „
Virol ... ..	728 tins	—	—
Virolax ... ..	72 „	—	—
Codliver Oil Emulsion	61 bottles	—	— bottles
Marmite ... ..	245 cartons	—	—
Sister Laura's Food	81 tins	—	5 tins
Maltoline ... ..	84 „	—	—

The Maternity and Child Welfare Services are undoubtedly of the greatest value to the welfare of the mothers and infants in our district and their appreciation is evidenced by the continued large number of attendances at the centre.

It should be noted that the work affected at the centre is supplemented by the following up in their own homes, by the two Health Visitors, of all mothers and infants whether attending the centre or not, whereby opportunity is afforded of giving advice to mothers on the care of their babies and young children. Much effective work is accomplished by these quiet health talks in the privacy of the home.

In so far as the supply of food free of cost is concerned, all such was supplied to necessitous cases coming within the scale of income approved by the Ministry of Health, and amounted to the value of £117 10s. 6d.

#### CLINICS FOR THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILD ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ —5 years).

These sessions commenced on November 10th, 1936, were held every second Tuesday afternoon from 2—4.

Number of Sessions held ... ..	24
Number of Children examined ... ..	259

Defects in pre-school children during 1938. Numbers of children examined in whom were found:—

Caries of Teeth ...	148	Impetigo ... ..	3
Tonsils Enlarged ...	48	Bronchitis ... ..	14
Squints ... ..	9	Malnutrition ... ..	3
Cardiac Bruits ...	4		

Those children in whom dental caries is disclosed by the examination are referred to the Dental Officer.

## CLINIC FOR DENTAL DISEASE.

(In Expectant and Nursing Mothers and the Pre-school Child)

This Clinic opened on July 30th, 1936, continued weekly throughout the year. The Dental Officer attends every Thursday forenoon for two hours.

Number of sessions held	...	...	...	...	53
Number of Mothers Treated	...	...	...	...	130
Number of Children (2—5 years) treated	...	...	...	...	154

The extractions in the pre-school children were performed under general anæsthesia and the children thereafter sent to their homes by ambulance wagon.

## THE ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

One afternoon session of 2 hours per week throughout the year was devoted to Ante-Natal work, the duties being carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and one of the Health Visitors.

Total number of New Cases under above auspices	...	...	...	...	51
„ „ „ Re-visits	„	„	„	...	129

Where the circumstances were adjudged necessary food free of cost was given to expectant mothers.

REFERENCES TO SPECIALISTS.—There were referred to obstetric specialists in Newcastle during the year from the Ante-natal Clinic under the scheme, 24 cases for opinion and report.

## MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN ASHINGTON

HOME HELPS.—Home Helps have been available during the year and their valuable services have been engaged on 30 occasions.

MATERNITY OUTFITS may be had on requisition and payment of a small fee.

MATERNAL MORBIDITY (cases of puerperal pyrexia)—In accordance with expressions contained in Ministry of Health's memo., 156/M.C.W., 1936, practitioners can avail themselves of any one of the following provisions:—

- (1) To have a second opinion on the case.
- (2) To have bacteriological examinations of (a) lochia, (b) blood.
- (3) That the patient be admitted to Hospital.
- (4) That a trained nurse be provided.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL.—The agreement still obtains with the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to admit from this area emergency maternity cases approved by the Medical Officer of Health and during 1938 there were admitted 32 such. The types of these cases are described as follows:—Breech Presentations 3, Hæmorrhage Antepartum, 4; Toxaemias 5, Instrumental Deliveries 2, Abortions 6, Versions 1, Caesarean Sections 1, Uterine Sepsis 2. There were recorded amongst these 12 normal deliveries.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 20G.

## Childlife Protection.

The duties of this Act were undertaken by the two Health Visitors. At the end of the year 1937 there were 4 children on the register to which no further additions were made during the year 1938. They were regularly visited at home by the Health Visitors and all were found to be well cared for and well nourished, and in safe surroundings.

## SUMMARY OF CHILD WELFARE ACTIVITIES, ETC.

Birth Notifications received from Doctors and Parents	...	94
"                    "                    Midwives	... ..	383
Total Births registered	... ..	477
Number of Infants supervised—First Visits	... ..	472
"                    "                    Total Visits	... ..	2279
Number of Re-visits to Children from 1 to 5 years	... ..	2762
First Visits to Babies wholly breast fed	... ..	390
"                    "                    hand fed	... ..	48
"                    "                    partly hand fed	... ..	27
First Visits to Expectant Mothers	... ..	99
Total Visits to Expectant Mothers	... ..	184

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Ashington Hirst and District Nursing Association maintains a staff of eight district nurses including the sister in charge. All are state certificated midwives. One nurse undertakes general nursing in the home. In accordance with the provisions of the Midwives Act, 1936, six are required for midwifery duties.

FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The two health visitors devote part of their time to the visiting of infectious diseases, such as Infantile Diarrhœa, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Pneumonia, Measles, etc., occurring in children up to the age of five years.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Cases are visited by the nurses engaged by Northumberland County Council for such purposes.

MIDWIVES.—The number of private midwives practising in the district during the year is 3. None are employed by the Council.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The bacteriological examination of specimens of pathological material in aid of diagnosis continues to be carried out by the County Council at the County Laboratory, Newburn.

The following Table shows to what extent this arrangement is utilised—

# BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

DURING THE YEAR. 1938.

(Urban District).

Sent in by	Swabs for Diphtheriæ		Tubercle Sputa		Enteric Fever				Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococcus		Cerebro-Spinal Fever Cerebro-Spinal Fluid		Miscellaneous Fluids including Pus	
	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg
M.O.H. Ashington	51	387	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	23	0	0	0	0
C.C.T.O. ...	0	0	7	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Medical Practitioners	154	210	8	60	0	3	0	1	16	39	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	205	597	15	114	0	4	0	1	18	62	0	0	0	0
	802		129		4		1		80		0		0	

# BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

DURING THE YEAR 1938.

(Infectious Diseases—Hospital).

Sent in by M.O.H.	Swabs for C Diphtheriæ		Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococcus		Virulence Tests Morphol'gic'l C Diphtheriæ	
	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg
As Physician in charge of Hospital	519	606	95	206	18	7
Totals ...	519	606	95	206	18	7
	1125		301		25	

WATER.—The supply from the Tynemouth Corporation continues to be ample and constant and average about 460,000 gallons per day.

Samples are taken periodically for bacterioscopic examination and these have gone to show its potability and safety for domestic purposes. The following Table shows the result of specimens actually submitted during 1938, for bacteriological examination:

Source	Date	Colonies of Organisms On Agar at 37oc after 48 hours per Ml	Colonies of Organisms On Agar at 22oc after 72 hours per Ml	Coli Aerogens Test Organisms per 100 Ml
Bothal ...	22-2-38	2	10	Nil
Bothal Mill Cottage ...	22 2-38	4	110	Nil
Woodhorn Cottages Pit Supply	29-3-38	1	5	7
Town Supply ...	29-3-38	2	65	1
do. ...	4-5-38	1	24	Nil
do. ...	13-7-38	3	36	5
do. ...	13-7-38	Nil	47	5
Coneygarth Cottage ...	14-9-38	Nil	7	Nil
Town Supply ...	14-12-38	5	14	35
do. ...	14-12-38	Nil	8	13
Coneygarth Cottage ..	14-12-38	2	13	25
SWIMMING BATHS				
Institute Swimming Baths ...	13-8-38	450	367	Nil

At the end of the year there were 5 Stand pipes in back streets supplying 17 houses with water, in the Urban District.

Every opportunity is taken to reduce the number of houses without a separate water supply, the principal stumbling block in these few remaining cases being that of financial incapacity on the part of the Owners.

INSPECTION AND TESTING OF DRAINS.—The remodelling of old systems and installation of new systems have been discussed with Owners and Builders, and as a result both efficiency and economy have resulted. Old systems are tested with Smoke and new lengths by Water.

The Drainage of all new buildings are dealt with by the Surveyor's Department, and all additions to existing systems by this Department.



**SCAVENCING.**—The collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour. The Ashbins in the Ashington and Hirst areas are emptied twice weekly and the ashpits and receptacles in the added areas of Woodhorn, Bothal and Sheepwash are cleared once per fortnight. Seven refuse vehicles are used for this work and the collection of trade refuse is undertaken twice weekly for all tradespeople who have agreed to have this work carried out by the Council, and a set charge is made according to the amount of refuse to be removed. All the material collected is removed to the Council tip where a man is wholly engaged in keeping the place reasonably tidy.

**SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:**—A combined system of sewerage is in operation throughout the main part of the district whereby both the sewage and the surface water are discharged into the same sewers.

The old Ashington area is drained into a main trunk sewer 36" diameter which is carried in a south easterly direction to North Seaton station from where it passes along Newbiggin Road and takes in the drainage from the New Hirst area at the bottom of Milburn Road afterwards proceeding in an easterly direction to the Screening Chamber in Summer House Lane. The East Hirst area is drained by means of a 36" trunk sewer which passes south eastward across the fields to the Screening Chamber.

At the Screening Chamber the sewage is automatically screened and passes by means of a 42" diameter pipe to Newbiggin where it is discharged into the sea at the south end of the bay. The sewage is at all times discharged below water level and is carried out to sea at all states of the tide. The screenings are carted away from the chamber once every two days.

During the year a new length of sewer was laid from Woodhorn Colliery to link up with the East Hirst trunk sewer on Moor House Farm Road. Altogether 1700 yards of pipes varying from 9" to 24" diameter were laid. A part of Woodhorn Colliery was too low to be drained by gravitation into the sewer and a small pumping station was constructed so that the sewage could be raised to the level necessary to permit it to flow unaided to the main sewer. The whole scheme cost about £5000 and a considerable area of land can now be easily drained should it be found necessary. A part of the Alexandra Road Housing Scheme was drained into this sewer and the proposed Woodhorn Road Housing Scheme can also be conveniently drained into it.

**CINEMAS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS.**—The Ventilation, Sanitary Accommodation, and Cleanliness of all places of Public Entertainment received due attention, and no complaint was received during the year, respecting any building.

**RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919:**—The County Council are the administrative Authority for the purposes of this Act in the Urban District, but frequent laying of Poison Baits, as well as "Smoking" of Runs is adopted whenever the necessity for so doing arises. Wherever it is found that Rats gain access to Buildings through Structural Defects, action is taken under the Public Health Act to remedy the nuisance, and by such means, Rat proofing is satisfactorily carried out.

**CAMPING SITES:**—There are no Camping Sites in the Area.

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.**—"Private" Electric Washers, hired out by the hour are still very popular, and justifiable complaints of Smoke Nuisances from Set Pot Chimneys which emit smoke daily, usually at least on four days per week, were received and dealt with.

Prosecutions against householders, for "permitting the chimney of their dwelling house to be accidentally on fire" were taken by your Sanitary Inspector, on reports from the Police, in 7 cases, and in each instance the Offender, for grossly polluting the atmosphere, was mulct of two shillings and sixpence.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—The number of Council Houses found to be infested and disinfested was 11, and the number of privately owned houses so found was, infested 6, and disinfested 6.

Spraying with Insecticides was adopted for dealing with the Vermin, and Solution B, and Zaldecide were used.

The furniture of 115 families, comprising all removals, transferred from Clearance Areas, to new houses at Alexandra Road and Bothal Cottages was sprayed-

This work is carried out by an experienced man employed by the Local Authority, and attached to this Department.

Dis-infestation of privately owned property is carried out by the Department, and a charge is made on the tenant, or the owner, to cover the cost of time and material. Advice on the best method of avoiding re-infestation is given, and this is found to be carried out generally with good results.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—By a systematic inspection of the Area, the work of detection and abatement of Nuisances proceeded satisfactorily. Opportunity was taken to make contact with Property Owners. As a result, both time and in some cases cost was saved, with consequent benefit to all concerned.

The following table summarises the Notices served:—

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done.	Verbal or Written Notice	Complied with
To clear choked drains or water-closets ...	81	81
To provide ashbins ... ..	5	5
To repair eaves, gutters, and downspouts ...	130	98
To repair sink or waste pipes ... ..	6	6
To provide proper sink and drain ... ..	1	1
To repair yard paving ... ..	9	6
Defective or leaky roofs, damp walls, etc. ...	28	23
Dirty or verminous premises ... ..	1	1
Defective fireplaces ... ..	13	11
Defective outbuildings ... ..	16	13
Defective air-grates ... ..	1	1
Nuisance from offensive trades ... ..	1	1
Defective manhole covers ... ..	1	1
Defective water-closets ... ..	4	4
Defective sashcords ... ..	9	9
Defective wall plaster ... ..	16	13
Offensive accumulations ... ..	21	21
Smoke nuisances ... ..	4	4
Defective ceilings ... ..	7	7
„ Foodstores ... ..	2	2
	356	307



# Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Year ending December 31st, 1938.

(Sanitary Officers' Order 1926 Art. 19 (15).)

	Number of Inspections during year.	Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	Number out-standing from previous year.	Total	Number remedied after letter or interview.	Number of INFORMAL Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	Number of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied thereafter.	In progress or being dealt with	Legal Proceedings
HOUSING.											
Structural defects (Summary of Sheet II)	684	412	190	602	—	412	476	23	15	111	—
Defective Food-store...	85	40	—	40	—	34	27	—	—	17	—
Dampness ...	73	28	—	28	—	28	23	—	—	5	—
Overcrowding ...	27	9	3	12	6	—	—	—	—	6	—
Nuisances ...	14	5	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY.											
Insufficient	161	53	—	53	—	53	53	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory ..											
DRAINAGE.											
Insufficient	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective ...	...	10	—	10	6	4	4	—	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.											
Insufficient	102	34	—	34	1	33	21	—	—	12	—
Defective ...	171	87	—	87	83	4	4	—	—	—	—
Shops, Food-stores, &c.	59	5	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	52	9	—	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	884	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, &c.	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	91	7	—	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces	68	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals ...	5	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles	35	11	—	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashpits improperly used	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations	56	21	—	21	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	21	4	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2634	741	193	934	164	568	608	23	15	151	—

		Year 1938.	Extensions and Alterations	After Informal Notice	After Statutory Notice	Total
Sanitary Conveniences	Privies abolished ...	0	0	0	0	
	„ repaired ...	0	0	0	0	
	Ashpits abolished ...	0	0	0	0	
	„ roofed or repaired ...	0	0	0	0	
	Pail Closets abolished...	0	0	0	0	
	Water Closets provided ...	16	0	0	16	
	„ „ repaired ...	0	0	0	0	
Drainage	Sanitary Bins provided ...	2	4	0	6	
	„ „ renewed...	0	71	0	71	
	New Drains constructed ...	27	0	0	27	
	Drains repaired or re-constructed...	10	0	0	10	
	Additional Gullies provided ...	28	0	0	28	
	Old Gullies replaced ...	3	0	0	3	
	Scullery Sinks provided ...	50	25	0	75	
Water S'pply	„ Waste-pipes repaired ...	0	4	0	4	
	„ „ trapped ...	0	0	0	0	
	Yards repaired or re-constructed ...	0	5	0	5	
	Sources closed or discontinued ...	40	53	No. houses affected	93	
	New Service provided...					

## OFFENSIVE TRADES :—

Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	23
Gut Scrapers	...	...	...	...	2
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					27

The trades of gut scrapers and tripe boilers are conducted on modern premises which were satisfactorily maintained.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.  
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises, (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	31	0	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	37	0	0
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	0
Total ... ..	68	0	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Ins. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	3	3	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation (unsuitable or defective)	0	0	0	0
Failure to fix Abstract ... ..	0	0	0	0
Total ... ..	3	3	0	0

REGISTERED FACTORIES.

Bakers	12
Blacksmith	5
Wheelwright	16
Boot Repairers	6
Butchers	9
Dress-makers, Milliners	2
Electricians	9
Joiners & Undertakers	1
Laundry	1
Milk Pasteurising Plant	9
Motor & Cycle Repairs	1
Pickle Factory	1
Picture Framer	6
Plumbers	7
Painters	4
Printers	5
Picture Houses	1
Stocking Knitter	2
Tailors	1
Upholsterers	2
Watch Repairers	
Total number of Factories on Register	103

Rag and Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928.—The premises to which these Acts apply have been visited and no contravention of the Acts found.

### SCHOOLS.

There are seven elementary schools all of which have the water carriage system. The water supply is ample and hand basins for washing are provided for scholars in all schools.

### MILK.

While the Council is not the authority solely responsible for the carrying out of the various Milk and Dairy Orders, special attention has been directed during the year to ensure the cleanliness of persons engaged in dairy farms, of the cows and of the cowsheds and to the detection of the bacillus tuberculosis in the supplies.

79 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological and principally for biological examination to the County Laboratory with the following results:—

Of the Samples tested, 8 were found to be positive, and 71 negative. The sources of the positive Milks were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through the County Medical Officer of Health, and subsequent reports received shewed that 2 Cows were slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, and found to be suffering from the disease. In the remaining cases, affecting 2 Farms, negative Samples were obtained. It is not uncommon for Cows probably "suspect" to be removed to a Cattle Auction Mart, and there sold as Food Animals, thus setting a problem to the Officer charged with the task of tracing a positive Milk Sample.

Registered under the Dairies, Cowshed and Milkshop Orders are:—

Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk	...	...	...	10
Purveyors	...	...	...	24

Included in the Producers of Milk is one producer owning a T.T. Herd of 57 cows and a commercial undertaking which purveys milk (average weekly consumption 5,000 gallons) treated by an automatic pasteurising plant of the Holder type.

The number of cowsheds is 10, and approximately 190 cows are kept. On frequent visits of inspection the sheds were generally found in fairly clean condition and regularly lime-washed.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.—The number of Food Animals slaughtered in the Area is very high, and the total will compare favourably with districts having a much larger population. Excluding Cows, which numbered 350, 913 Bovines were inspected immediately after slaughter, as were 18 Calves, 1090 Pigs, and 3,754 Sheep and Lambs.

There were 11 Slaughterhouses holding an Annual Licence, during 1938, but only 10 of these were in regular use. Where the slaughtering is not carried on at fixed times on fixed days, Cards are supplied to Butchers to facilitate the giving of Notice, and the Slaughterhouses are visited regularly, since Slaughter is carried on daily throughout the week, including, in several instances, Sundays.

The amount of Meat condemned and destroyed, all of which was voluntarily surrendered, shews an increase over last year, and a reference to the accompanying tables will give the reason for such action.

There are 3 Meat Stalls in the Market, over which regular supervision is maintained. From the Public Health point of view, while they conform to the Meat Regulations, no serious loss to the community would be felt were they to cease trading. A covered Market would undoubtedly improve matters very materially.

### MEAT, ORGANS ETC., CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Bovine Lungs ... ..	114	4 Cow Carcases ... ..	240 stones approx.
„ Heads ... ..	20	2 Pig „ ... ..	22 „ „
„ Livers ... ..	26	Pork „ ... ..	17 „ „

#### OTHER DEFINED DISEASES.

1 Cow Carcases	Gangrenous Pneumonia	...	...	...	80 stones approx.
1 „ „	Septicaemia	...	...	...	70 „ „
Beef	Bruising	...	...	...	2 „ „
2 Sheep „	Gangrenous Pneumonia	...	...	...	
Lungs Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	5
„ Melanosis	...	...	...	...	1
Livers Cirrhosis	...	...	...	...	25
„ Cavernous Angioma	...	...	...	...	1
Livers Bacterial Necrosis	...	...	...	...	1
„ Echinococcus cysts	...	...	...	...	1
Head & Tongue Glossitis	...	...	...	...	1

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1938.

	Cattle exclu. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed ... ..	913	350	18	3754	1090
Number Inspected .. ..	913	350	18	3754	1090
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcase condemned... ..	Nil.	2	Nil.	2	Nil.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	1	35	Nil.	17	40
Percentage of the No. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1095%	10.57%	—	.5%	3.69%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcase condemned .. ..	Nil	4	Nil	Nil.	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	17	156	Nil	Nil.	42
Percentage of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.86	45.71%	—	—	4.22%

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Isolation Hospital is situated south-east of North Seaton railway station. It is a brick building consisting of a seven-roomed house with two wards attached, each ward containing six beds, and a discharge block consisting of male and female dressing rooms, bathrooms, and lavatories. In addition to this there is an iron building consisting of three wards, which may accommodate 33 patients, and two nurses' rooms.

The staff includes matron, two nurses, two maids, and porter-grounds man.

One motor ambulance is provided for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

There were 7 patients in hospital on January 1st, 1938. The number admitted during the year was 263 (scarlet fever 31, diphtheria 221, erysipelas 1, dysentery 1, pneumonia 1, croup 1, and 7 for observation). 252 patients were discharged during the year, leaving 18 in hospital on December 31st, 1938. The hospital was occupied all the year and the expenditure amounted to £2,574 3s. 9d., of which £204 13s. 10d. was recovered from other authorities.

The following premises were disinfected: 303 houses, 5 wards at Ashington Hospital and one doctor's surgery for infectious disease, and 42 houses for vermin. The steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital has been in constant use during the year.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS.—No cases were notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.—Notifications have decreased this year to 32 in place of 83 last year.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of Cases .....	636	255	48	83	32
„ „ Deaths ...	3	2	0	0	0
Attack rate per 1,000 population .....	21.41	88.5	1.59	2.772	1.071
Death Rate per 1,000 population .....	0.1009	0.066	0	0	0
Case Mortality .....	0.47%	0.78%	0	0	0

SCARLET FEVER ANTITOXIN continued to be used in hospital for the severer types of affections with good results.



## DIPHTHERIA.—Notifications :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of Cases .....	196	115	56	32	175
„ „ Deaths ...	3	4	0	3	5
Attack rate per 1,000					
population .....	6.958	3.8	1.86	1.035	5.85
Death Rate per 1,000					
population .....	0.1009	0.133	0	0.1002	0.1673
Case Mortality .....	1.53%	3.4%	0	9.677	2.857

The amount of Diphtheria antitoxin supplied by the Council for prophylaxis and for treatment was 6,328,000 units, including the stock permitted to be drawn upon by local medical practitioners under Diphtheria Antitoxin Orders, August, 1910.

Continuous search for carriers of the Diphtheria germ was again maintained throughout this year by following up and swabbing of contacts. Such when found were isolated in the Hospital until virulence or non-virulence of the organism was ascertained. It is found necessary in some carrier cases (convalescent and contact) to free these persons from the carrier state by performing tonsillectomy, and this operation was carried out on eight occasions.

The type of diphtheria prevalent on the whole proved easy of combating successfully provided early administration of antitoxin had been carried out and given in adequate amount. Practically all the Diphtheria cases were bacteriologically proven and the throats were negative on two successive occasions before discharge from Hospital.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is offered by the Council at Clinics set up following the Child Welfare Session for the age group 1 to 8 years free of charge. There was no preliminary Schick testing and the method recommended is by three injections of Toxoid Antitoxin Floccules (T.A.F.), and 22 such immunisations were effected in 1938.

PNEUMONIA.—Notifications this year are 18 compared with 44 last year. There were 20 deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—There was 1 case of this disease notified. Vision was unimpaired on recovery.

## NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths Notified Cases.			
	Respiratory		Non-Resp.		Respiratory		Non-Resp.	
Years.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
5—	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
15—	2	3	0	1	0	1	0	0
25—	1	3	1	0	2	1	0	0
35—	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
45—	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
55—	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
65 upwds	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	10	9	2	3	4	3	3	0

TUBERCULOSIS (Pulmonary).—Notifications were 19 in number, and there were 7 deaths from this type of the disease.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of cases .....	23	20	30	20	19
„ „ deaths ...	16	10	16	10	7
Attack rate per 1,000 population .....	0.7741	0.668	0.9993	0.668	0.634
Death rate per 1,000 population .....	0.5386	0.334	0.5329	0.334	0.234

TUBERCULOSIS (Non-Pulmonary).—There were also 5 notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 deaths.

Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	0.1002
Death rate, all forms ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.334

No compulsory removals to hospital of patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were undertaken under Section 172, P.H.A. 1936.

Under the P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, no action was found to be necessary.



The following table compiled from the Registrar General's returns S.D. 55 permits of comparison in regard to the notifications of certain infectious diseases throughout England and Wales, the 148 Smaller Towns and Ashington.

Disease	Cases Notified in the District	Rates per 1,000 population		
		Ashington	148 Smaller Towns	England & Wales.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	32	1.071	2.58	2.41
Diphtheria ...	175	5.85	1.53	1.58
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas ...	24	0.803	0.39	0.40
Pneumonia ...	18	0.602	0.98	1.10
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)				
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	7	15.05	12.51	14.42

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.—Two cases were reported during the year.

Ashington Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ages at Incidence, 1938.

(Ministry of Health Table).

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	3	5	4	39	21	4	12	—	—	—	88	31	—
Diphtheria ...	—	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever including Paratyphoid	1	3	8	10	15	82	41	10	5	—	—	—	175	165	5
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	7	2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	(7)	(1)	(2)	—	—	3	—	2	(3)	(1)	(17)	(1)	18	1	38
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	7	9	3	24	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	(1)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not Notifiable Locally—Deaths at Ages only															
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

The figures in brackets are included in the numbers alongside which they stand and indicate fatal cases.

Ashington Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISTRIBUTION, 1938.

Months	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Phthisis	Other Tubercular Diseases	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Cerebro- Spinal Fever	Monthly Total.		
	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	A H	Both
January ...	1 12	7 13	2 1	0 0	0 0	0 2	0 0	0 1	0 1	0 0	10	30	40
February ...	0 8	4 7	0 1	0 0	0 0	1 1	0 0	1 1	0 0	0 0	6	18	24
March ...	0 7	8 7	0 3	0 0	0 0	0 1	1 2	3 4	0 0	0 1	12	25	37
April ...	2 2	5 2	0 2	0 0	0 0	0 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	7	8	15
May ...	0 7	4 3	3 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 0	2 2	0 0	0 0	10	14	24
June ...	1 5	0 3	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 1	0 0	0 0	1 1	0 0	2	11	13
July ...	1 10	2 0	1 1	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	4	13	17
August ...	2 17	2 2	0 0	0 0	0 0	1 1	0 0	0 0	1 1	0 0	6	21	27
September ...	6 22	0 3	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 2	0 0	1 1	0 0	0 0	7	28	35
October ...	4 23	8 2	0 2	0 0	0 0	1 4	1 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	14	31	45
November ...	2 18	1 2	0 2	0 0	0 0	1 0	0 0	0 1	0 0	0 0	4	23	27
December ...	6 19	0 3	4 0	0 0	0 0	1 0	0 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	14	22	36
Total ...	25 150	41 47	10 14	0 0	0 1	5 15	3 2	8 10	3 4	1 1	96	244	340
	175	88	24	0	1	20	5	18	7	2			

[illegible]

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..	412
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	684
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	148

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	286
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(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	Nil

## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11, and 13, of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	6

## D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	2

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

(a).—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	169
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	231
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	1442
(b). Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	—
(c).—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	108
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	440
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	Nil

We have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

JAMES ANGUS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GEO. W. TATE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.







